

Claims

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method of rendering a descriptor in association with a streaming media presentation comprising:
 - receiving said streaming media presentation;
 - accessing descriptor information;
 - determining if descriptors are enabled;
 - 10 rendering said descriptor if descriptors are enabled;
 - executing a software routine if an interactive access point is enabled for said descriptor and a corresponding user input is received; and
 - discontinuing display of the descriptor if an end display condition has occurred.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of rendering said descriptor further comprises rendering said descriptor in a position that provides an association with a streaming media image element.
3. The method of claim 1 further comprising rendering an indication that descriptors are available and enabling said descriptors if a predetermined user response to said indication is received.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein said indication is an icon displayed within a streaming media image.
5. The method of claim 3 wherein said indication is an audible signal.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of rendering said descriptor further comprises rendering an association indicator.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein said step of rendering said association indicator further comprises changing the location of said association indicator to reflect a change in position of an image element.
8. A method of rendering a descriptor in conjunction with a streaming media image element comprising:
 - receiving a streaming media presentation;
 - accessing descriptor information;
 - 5 determining if descriptors are enabled;
 - receiving pointing device position information;
 - selecting a descriptor from said descriptor information using said position information;
 - rendering the selected descriptor in a predetermined position associated
 - 10 with the streaming media image element that does not obscure important streaming media presentation content; and
 - discontinuing display of said selected descriptor if an end display condition has occurred.
9. The method of claim 8 further comprising executing a software routine if an interactive access point is enabled for said selected descriptor and if a corresponding input is received.
10. A method of rendering a descriptor in association with a streaming media image element comprising:
 - receiving a streaming media presentation;
 - accessing descriptor information;
 - 5 determining if descriptors are enabled;
 - highlighting at least one streaming media image element;
 - receiving a user input;
 - rendering said descriptor in a predetermined position; and

10 discontinuing display of the descriptor if an end display condition has
 occurred.

11. A method of rendering a descriptor in association with a streaming media image
element comprising:

5 receiving a streaming media presentation;
 accessing descriptor information;
 determining if descriptors are enabled;
 receiving pointing device position information;
 highlighting at least one streaming media image element;
 receiving a user input;
 selecting a descriptor from said descriptor information using said position
10 information;
 rendering the selected descriptor in a predetermined position; and
 discontinuing display of the descriptor if an end display condition has
 occurred.

12. The method of claim 11 further comprising executing a software routine if an
interactive access point is enabled for said selected descriptor and if a
corresponding input is received.

13. A method of rendering a descriptor in association with a streaming media image
element comprising:

5 receiving a streaming media presentation;
 accessing descriptor information;
 determining if descriptors are enabled;
 receiving pointing device position information;
 altering the appearance of a displayed cursor if said cursor position
corresponds to a streaming media image element for which a descriptor is
available;
10 receiving a user input;

selecting a descriptor from said descriptor information using said position information;

rendering the selected descriptor in a predetermined position; and

discontinuing display of the descriptor if an end display condition has

15 occurred.

14. A method of rendering a descriptor in association with a streaming media image element comprising:

receiving a streaming media presentation;

accessing descriptor information;

5 displaying a streaming media image element identifier in a first screen position within a streaming media image; and

displaying a descriptor associated with said streaming media image element in a second screen position.

15. A method of rendering a descriptor in association with a streaming media presentation comprising:

receiving said streaming media presentation,

accessing descriptor information,

5 displaying at least one streaming media image element identifier in a first screen position within a streaming media image,

displaying a descriptor associated with said streaming media image element identifier in a predetermined position at least partially overlapping said streaming media image, and

10 updating said descriptor in response to a user input associated with said streaming media image element identifier.

16. A method of rendering a descriptor in association with a streaming media image element comprising:

receiving a streaming media presentation;

accessing descriptor information;

5 displaying at least one streaming media image element identifier in a first
screen position providing association with said streaming media image element,
displaying a descriptor associated with the first streaming media image
element in a predetermined position at least partially overlapping the streaming
media image,
10 dynamically associating the streaming media image element identifier
with a second streaming media image element in response to scene changes,
and updating the descriptor to display information associated with the
second streaming media image element. .

17. A streaming media receiver comprising:

a unit that receives a streaming media presentation;
computer program code that accesses descriptor information;
computer program code that determines if descriptors are enabled;
5 computer program code that detects a rendering event; and
computer program code that renders a descriptor.

18. The receiver of claim 17 further comprising:

computer program code that determines if an interactive access point is
enabled for said descriptor;
computer program code that determines if an interactive access point
5 event has occurred; and
computer program code that executes a hotlink if said hotspot is enabled
and said hotspot event has occurred.

19. The receiver of claim 17 wherein said code that renders a descriptor further
comprises:

computer program code that receives position information from a pointing
device and selects said descriptor from said descriptor information.

20. The receiver of claim 17 further comprising:
computer program code that receives position information from a pointing device and highlights a streaming media image element.
21. The receiver of claim 17 further comprising:
computer program code that receives position information from a pointing device and alters the appearance of a cursor if said position corresponds to a predetermined streaming media image element.
22. The receiver of claim 17 further comprising:
computer program code that renders an association indicator associating said descriptor and a streaming media image element.
23. The receiver of claim 17 further comprising:
computer program code that receives position information from a pointing device and highlights a streaming media image element.
24. The receiver of claim 17 further comprising:
computer program code that at least one streaming media image element identifier in a first screen position providing association with a streaming media image element..
25. The receiver of claim 24 further comprising:
computer program code that updates said descriptor in response to a user input.

26. A streaming media receiver comprising:

means that receive a streaming media presentation;

means that access descriptor information;

means that determine if descriptors are enabled;

5 means that detects rendering event; and

means that renders a descriptor.